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## REAGAN BARS TIES TO AFGHAN REBELS

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WASHINGTON, June 16 — President Reagan, in a meeting with Afghan rebel leaders today, turned down their request that the United States extend diplomatic recognition and sever relations with the Soviet-backed Afghan Government, the White House said.

Although Mr. Reagan declined to extend diplomatic recognition, he voiced an "unshakable commitment" of support in a statement issued later.

It was evident from comments by the Afghan rebels and by Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, that tensions had developed. They stem from the Americans' continued recognition of the Afghan Government, their backing for United Nations-sponsored peace talks without rebel participation, and Washington's failure to provide advanced weapons to the rebels, including Stinger shoulder-fired antiaircraft missiles.

Since news reports in March, the Administration had allowed the impression to persist that it was sending these weapons to aid the Afghan rebels in coping with Soviet fighter planes and attack helicopters. Congressional sources said they had been told that Stingers would be sent to rebels not only in Afghanistan, but also in Angola.

### No Stingers Being Supplied

But today, Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the Afghan rebel coalition, said at a news conference that neither were Stingers being received nor had they been promised.

Mr. Speakes said Mr. Rabbani had raised this issue in the 35-minute meeting with Mr. Reagan. Mr. Rabbani, according to Mr. Speakes, said the rebels "need effective weapons for air and ground defense, describing that the Soviets have burned villages."

The Afghan rebel leader also complained that "the resistance of our people has not been recognized officially." To this, Mr. Reagan replied, according to the spokesman, that the recognition issue was important and that "we will keep discussing it, but it is premature to resolve now."

Mr. Speakes said the United States believed it was more important to maintain an embassy in Kabul, which has been described as a listening post for American intelligence.

At the subsequent news conference, Mr. Rabbani issued a statement that assailed United States recognition of the Afghan Government and the United Nations-sponsored peace talks.

### West Challenged on Gorbachev

In those talks, a United Nations mediator has been moving back and forth between Pakistani and Afghan delegations in Geneva. They are discussing a possible timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, parallel with political guarantees of Afghan neutrality.

Mr. Reagan, after his meeting with Mikhail S. Gorbachev in November, said he believed that the Soviet leader was sincere in seeking a negotiated solution in Afghanistan.

But Mr. Rabbani said:

"We do not understand how the West can be fooled by Mikhail Gorbachev. It is true that he seems friendly. But under that smiling face is the iron claw of the bear. Since Gorbachev came to power, atrocities have increased, terrorism and border violations in Pakistan have dramatically risen."

Mr. Rabbani said the rebels were considering setting up a government in the area under their control, which he put at 80 percent of Afghanistan.